



# BIG YELLOW

# TAXI

by Joni Mitchell

YouTube Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=94bdMSCdw20>

Lyrics Link:

<http://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/jonimitchell/bigyellowtaxi.html>

# Big Yellow Taxi by Joni Mitchell

*(RR) Retrieval and Recording*

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1.) What adjective is used to describe the hotel?

\_\_\_\_\_

2.) How much were people charged to see the tree?

\_\_\_\_\_

3.) Who does the writer tell to put away the D.D.T?

\_\_\_\_\_

4.) When did the screen door slam?

\_\_\_\_\_

5.) What two things does the writer want to keep?

\_\_\_\_\_

6.) Write two pairs of words which rhyme in the song.

\_\_\_\_\_

7.) What phrases are constantly repeated?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8.) Find and copy the phrase which suggests that they replaced nature with a busy place for people to have a party.

\_\_\_\_\_

9.) What is the listener told that they don't know?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Extension - Come up with your own retrieval and recording (RR) questions.*



# Big Yellow Taxi by Joni Mitchell

*(CC) Context Clues*

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1.) What do you think the acronym D.D.T. stands for?

- a.) don't dance in the toilets
- b.) dirt, dust and traffic
- c.) dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane - chemicals used to kill insects
- d.) descriptions, design and technology

What key word(s) in the text helped you answer this question?

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2.) What do you think the word paved means?

- a.) to paint something
- b.) putting down pavements or concrete
- c.) to feel pain
- d.) live happily

What key word(s) in the text helped you answer this question?

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3.) What do you think the words parking lot means?

- a.) American term for car park
- b.) lots of parks
- c.) a free parking sign
- d.) a type of tent

What key word(s) in the text helped you answer this question?

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4.) What do you think the word boutique means?

- a.) a field of crops
- b.) something beautiful
- c.) a type of boot
- d.) a small shop selling jewellery and clothes

What key word(s) helped you answer this question?

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*Extension - Write a sentence of your own for each word*



# Big Yellow Taxi by Joni Mitchell

(INF) Inference

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1.) What do you think 'paved paradise' means?

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2.) What do you think the whole line which begins with 'Don't know what...' means?  
Can you use real-life examples to help explain?

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3.) What do you think the whole line which begins with 'Hey farmer...' means?

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4.) Why do you think they put the trees in a tree museum in the song?

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5.) If 'my old man' is the writer's boyfriend, what do you think just happened? Use evidence in text to help you explain.

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6.) What do you imagine paradise was like before it was paved?

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# Big Yellow Taxi by Joni Mitchell

## Assessment

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1.) Write down two examples of alliteration used in the song.

RR CC INF S

Code (1)	Answer (2)

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2.) What do you think is the main message the song is trying to give?

RR CC INF S

Code (1)	Answer (1)

- a.) don't destroy car parks
- b.) be environmentally friendly
- c.) be grateful for what you have
- d.) plant more trees

3.) What two meanings can the word charged have? RR CC INF S

Code (1)	Answer (2)

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4.) What might cause the spots on the apples? RR CC INF S

Code (1)	Answer (1)

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5.) Which do you think is mostly likely true? RR CC INF S

Code (1)	Answer (1)

- a.) Joni Mitchell's favourite car is a big yellow taxi
- b.) Joni Mitchell wrote the song after seeing how tourists had ruined the Hawaiian mountains
- c.) Joni Mitchell doesn't like apples
- d.) Joni Mitchell had previously visited to a tree museum

6.) Using ideas from the song, what would you like to save and why?

RR CC INF S

Code (1)	Answer (2)

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Total	
/15	



# Big Yellow Taxi by Joni Mitchell

## Answers

### Retrieval and Recording

1. pink 2. a dollar and a half 3. The farmer 4. late last night 5. birds and bees

6. 2 pairs including: lot/spot, museum/see 'em, no/go, bees/please, slam/man

7. Don't it always seem to go  
That you don't know what you've got til its gone  
They paved paradise  
And put up a parking lot

8. a swinging hotspot 9. What you've got 'til it's gone

### Context Clues

1. c 2. b 3. a 4. d

### Inference (answers may vary)

1. Paved paradise means that beautiful places of nature have been built on or over.

2. Not appreciating things or understanding how lucky you are until it has disappeared. (Children must also use real-life examples.)

3. D.D.T is a type of chemical put on crops so the writer is asking farmers not to use them because it may harm the environment or give food unusual features.

4. It's a prediction that if we cut down too many trees, then we will eventually run out. Therefore, rare and valuable things are often put in museums.

5. They may have broken up. The word 'slam' suggests he was cross and closed the door of the taxi with force, possibly after an argument.

6. Answers will vary. (Children need to explain why.)

### Assessment

1. RR - paved paradise, parking lot and pink / bird, bees / late, last

2. S - c

3. CC - Charged can mean an amount of money you have been asked to pay, it can mean running towards something or it can mean allowing something to power up or becoming filled with energy/electricity

4. INF - The D.D.T. chemicals or fertilisers

5. S - Answers may vary but reference to something from the song must be made.

